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IRANI, VAISHNAW, PURI AT WEF DAVOS

Union ministers Smriti Irani, Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Hardeep Singh Puri are leading the Indian delegation to WEF starting on Monday. About a dozen Indian lounges have dominated the main Promenade street of Davos in Switzerland. Besides central ministers, the Indian participation includes three CMs and many CEOs at the five-day event. India's theme is 'Credible India' to showcase and spotlight its economic achievements and its potential as a contributor to global growth.

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI



Government of India

Scan for more information

Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

Modern Farming, Prosperous Farmers

7 crore 30 lakh Kisan Credit Cards distributed;
Loans worth ₹9 lakh crore to farmers



MALDIVES PRESIDENT ORDERS INDIAN TROOPS OUT BY MARCH 15

Deadline set days after Muizzu held talks with China's Xi in Beijing

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

THE diplomatic row between India and Maldives escalated further on Sunday with Maldivian President **Mohamed Muizzu**, who returned from a state visit to China on Saturday, setting March 15 as the deadline for New Delhi to withdraw its troops from the country.



There are 88 Indian military personnel stationed in Maldives to operate one helicopter and two Dornier aircraft provided by India for search and rescue operations.

Muizzu was elected in November last year on a promise to end India's military presence in the island nation. A day after he was sworn in, Muizzu on November 18 formally asked India to withdraw the troops. The India-Maldives High-Level Core Group set up to negotiate the withdrawal held its first meeting on Sunday at Male's foreign ministry headquarters. The meeting was attended by Indian High Commissioner to Maldives Munu Mahawar.

Public policy secretary at the Maldivian President's Office Abdulla Nazim Ibrahim later told a press meet that the government of Maldives has formally asked India to withdraw its troops by March 15. "Indian military personnel cannot stay in the Maldives. This is the policy of the President and that of his administration," Ibrahim said.

The March 15 deadline comes amid a worsening diplomatic spat between the two countries that began with derogatory comments posted on social media by three deputy ministers of the Muizzu government against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The three have since been suspended.

It also comes a day after Muizzu, known for his pro-China stance, wrapped up his five-day state visit to Beijing. Upon return from China, Muizzu, in a thinly-veiled attack on India, said that Maldives may be a small country, but that doesn't give anyone 'the licence to bully'. "We aren't in anyone's backyard. We are an independent and sovereign state," he said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs said during the first meeting of the India-Maldives High-Level Core Group, both sides held discussions on "finding a mutually workable solution to enable continued operation of Indian aviation platforms that provide humanitarian and medvac services to the people of Maldives."



RAHUL RALLY 2.0

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacts with locals during the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' in Thoubal district, Manipur, on Sunday | PTI | P7

EXPRESS READ

Danish Queen Margrethe signs historic abdication

COPENHAGEN: Denmark's Queen Margrethe II signed her historic abdication on Sunday, paving the way for her son Frederik X to immediately become king, Danish media reported. Margrethe (83), is the first Danish monarch to voluntarily relinquish the throne in 900 years. P9

Principal got pupils to clean toilets, home garden: Parent

RAMAKRISHNA BADESHI @ Kalaburagi

WHILE instances of school students being made to clean toilets on campus are becoming more common place, an incident in Kalaburagi has made the issue a little more serious.

Md Zameer, father of a Class 8 student at Maulana Azad Model English Medium High School on Malagatti Road in Kalaburagi, lodged a complaint with Roza police station on Saturday, accusing the principal, Johra Jubeen, of making students clean the school toilet, apart from cleaning the garden of her residence.

In his complaint, Zameer stated that his son and other students had told him that for the last several months, Johra used to get some of them to clean the school toilets, while some others were also made to clean the garden at her residence.

The complainant added that he went to the school last week and warned the principal not to use school students for such tasks, terming it "unethical".

Despite the warning, Johra allegedly again asked Zameer's son to clean her garden on Saturday. P5



CM Eknath Shinde (R) welcomes Milind Deora into his party on Sunday | PTI

Deora quits Cong, joins Shinde-led Sena

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

CONGRESS leader and former Lok Sabha MP Milind Deora on Sunday quit the grand old party and joined the Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Explaining his decision to leave the Congress, Deora said: "The Congress has deviated from its ideological and organisational roots, lacking appreciation for honesty and constructive criticism. The party that once initiated India's economic liberalisation now targets business houses as 'anti-national'. It has strayed from celebrating India's diverse culture and religions, fostering division based on caste, and creating a North-South divide. The party has not only failed to attain power, but also failed to play an effective role of opposition at the Centre." P7



Shri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT



Shri. D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

"We all have a right to Clean Air, And we all have a Responsibility to Protect the Environment"

A Pollution-Free Vehicle can Save our Lives

Things to be Done



Sri Ramalinga Reddy, Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai Department at a programme to create awareness about Pollution-Free Environment.



Use of mass transport such as BMTC, KSRTC, Metro to control air pollution.



Use bicycle for short Distance



Putting emphasis on battery-operated vehicles, LPG/CNG vehicles, and BS6 vehicles



Keeping the vehicles in good condition



Vehicles should be inspected at air pollution testing centers on time and obtaining a Pollution Under Control Certificate is mandatory.

Adverse Effects:

Be aware that the gases such as Carbon Dioxide (Co_2), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Lead (Pb), Nitrogen oxide (NO_x), Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) and Suspended Particulated Matter (SPM) emitted by vehicles are harmful to adversely affecting the environment and human health.

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Dr. N.V. Prasad I.A.S.
Government Secretary,
Transport Department.

Yogeesh A.M. I.A.S.
Commissioner,
Transport & Road Safety Authority Bengaluru

J. Gnanendra Kumar
Additional Transport Commissioner
(Environment and e-governance)